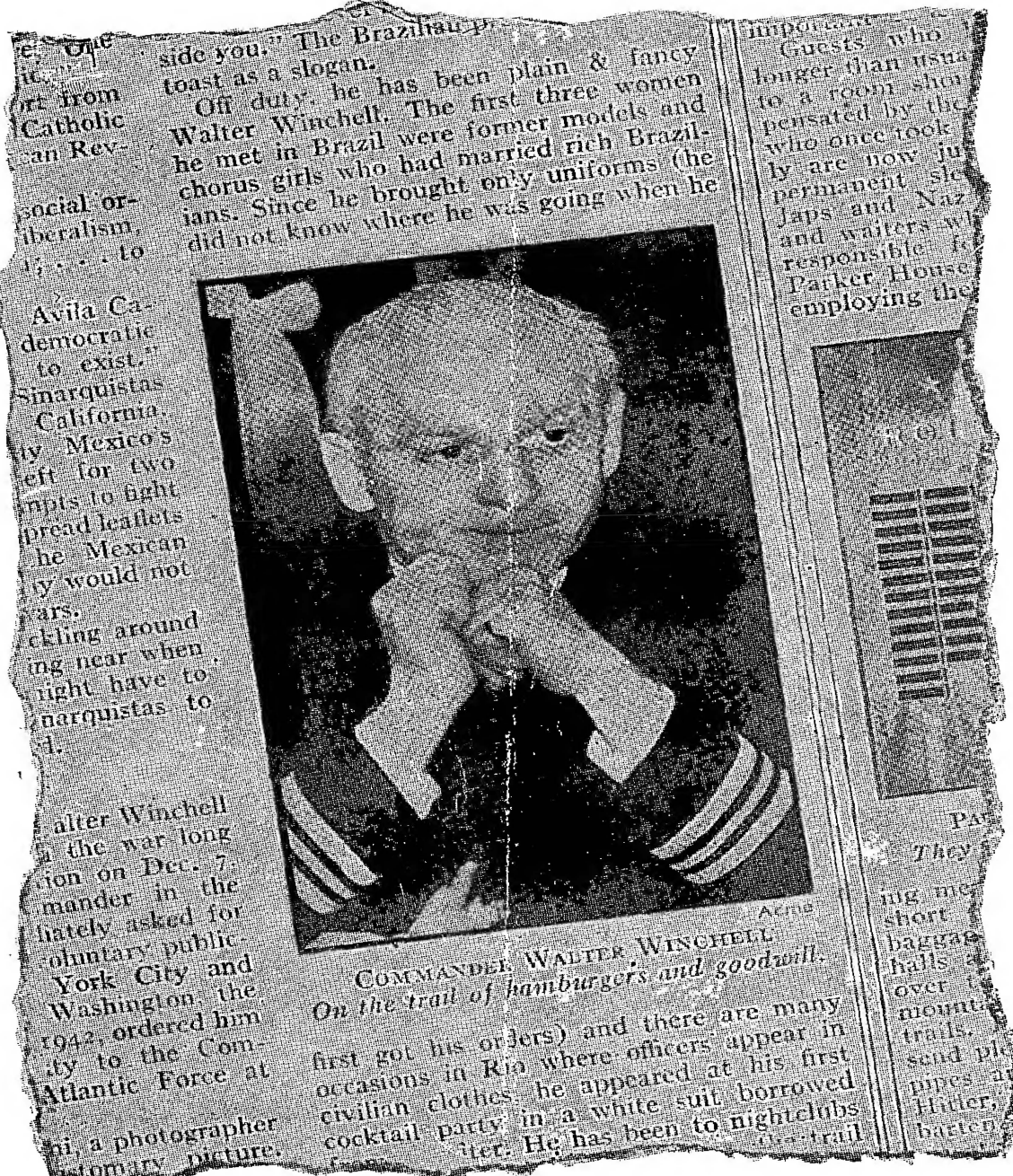


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With
lotions
of love...

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to Walter Winchell



COMMANDER WALTER WINCHELL
On the trail of hamburgers and goodwill.

In the picture above, reproduced from the January 11, 1943, issue of Time magazine, Lieutenant Commander Walter Winchell, USNR, (INACTIVE), assumes an unconventional pose so that his "Mr. and Mrs. United States" can get a good unobstructed view of his two and a half stripes . . . Gold Braid which he has undoubtedly worn for the last time.

With lotions of love...

by

JOSEPH P. KAMP

*Comprising some pertinent paragraphs about
the Smear Bund and its "press agent stooge"
Lt. Comdr. Walter Winchell, USNR (INACTIVE)
from Joseph P. Kamp's forthcoming book*
UNAMERICAN GESTAPO



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JOSEPH P. KAMP

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Why Pick on Walter Winchell?

Why bother to pry into the private affairs, probe the public pronouncements and speculate about the malicious motivations of a garrulous gossip-monger?

Why take the time and trouble and use up good white paper, printer's ink and manpower, in the middle of a great war, to spotlight the antics of a ridiculous mountebank and explore the distorted convolutions of a puny and putrid mind?

The answer is a simple patriotic one.

Walter Winchell has been bribed or cajoled by an Internationalist Cabal into service as a frightening Twentieth Century Golem made of newsprint pulp and wired for sound in imitation of that awesome Golem of four centuries ago—an idol fashioned in Europe by demagogic fear-mongers to terrorize and exploit their people with exhortations to confusion and disunity.

To destroy the evil efficacy of this present-day Golem, it is necessary to reveal the workings of its sorcery—the linotype in its loins and the microphone in its bowels.

The import of Winchell's role can be fully understood only when it is recognized that the United States of America is in the throes of a great internal ideological conflict. The sinister forces of Internationalism, Communism, Collectivism and Left Wing New Dealism, are slugging it out with Individualists who still believe in Constitutional government and the American Way of Life.

Walter Winchell is in the forefront of this conflict to destroy, by any means — mostly insidious — every vestige of SOUND American thought, speech and action, the while he bleats spurious protestations of Star-Spangled patriotism.

For twenty years Walter Winchell has perpetuated the hoax of seeing all, hearing all, telling all . . . and knowing all. Gullible millions have accepted his column and broadcasts as Holy Writ. He has become increasingly influential in moulding the opinions of those exposed to his divisive propaganda and correspondingly valuable to interests which can be served by his strange code of ethics and his stranger sense of patriotism.

He is powerful.

He is dangerous.

He is a menace to America—and must be debunked!

PART I

***Un American Underground* ***

Ninety percent of the American people are FASCISTS . . . or NAZIS . . . or ENEMIES WITHIN! — if you believe such fervent “champions of the people” as Vice President Henry A. Wallace, or the leading Communist weekly *NEW MASSES*.

Nine out of every ten Americans, including Congressmen, are **QUISLINGS . . . or SABOTEURS . . . or RATZIS** if you believe the self-styled “America’s Patriot No. 1,” Walter Winchell.

That same estimate is true if you believe the smear book **UNDER COVER** — boosted to a best seller by Winchell — which represents the collective defamations of ten Left Wing smear artists, including Communist leader Earl Browder, and which is not the brain child of the alien-born, alien-minded refugee stooge Avedis Boghos Derounian, alias John Roy Carlson, who claims to be the author.

In fact, if the charges leveled against **Americans** by the spokesmen and publications of the organized Left — by the Communists, the Collectivists, the “Liberals,” the intolerant pleaders for “tolerance”, the New Deal Internationalists and the Russia First zealots — are considered true, then an even larger percentage of the American people are **traitors** to their country.

It is a safe bet that **YOU** are suspect as a disloyal citizen.

More than that, if you have been indiscreet . . . if you have dared to express yourself in defense of the Constitution . . . if you have been outspoken in your loyalty to the Republic and to American tradition . . . if you have been “foolish” enough to have taken a stand against Communist infiltration — into Government for instance . . . if you were ever a bit “intolerant” of un-American conduct . . . if you have had the temerity to speak out in the interests of **your** country **as** against the interests of the rest of the world — then in all

* From Chapter 1. UNAMERICAN GESTAPO.

probability **YOU** have been spied upon, catalogued and indexed in some headquarters of the UNAMERICAN GESTAPO.

Do not believe that **you** are an exception . . . that **you** are unimportant or too influential . . . that your identity is lost in the big city . . . or that your community is too small or too far removed from the centers of subversion. The UN-AMERICAN GESTAPO is everywhere in America . . . and it is interested in the private views and personal activities of **every-one**. Do not think for one minute that **your** standing or lack of position in life makes **you** immune from such sinister attention. No one is immune. There is evidence to show that:

- ¶ Cardinals and cops are checked.
- ¶ Priests and peddlers are probed.
- ¶ Judges and Generals are indexed.
- ¶ Women as well as men are spied upon.
- ¶ Members of Congress are given special "attention."

Congressional Committees have had their investigators "investigated" and "trailed" by "agents" of this un-American underground.

The New York Police Department was given a careful "inspection" by these amateur sleuths in a search for "fronters" and "fascists."

Top flight commissioned officers, in both Military and Naval Intelligence, have been checked by these snoopers and smeared as "Fascists" and "anti-Semites."*

The personnel of the Department of Justice has been "examined" by these private spies in a hunt for "members or officials of the Bund or Nazi Party."

Even J. Edgar Hoover has been "shadowed" and his personal and professional (alleged) "derelictions" have been set down in a special dossier.

And, to emphasize the total irresponsibility of these half-witted Dick Tracys, they dared to invade the sacred confines of a seminar for converts to Catholicism in order to snoop and spy on the Right Rev. Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, Professor of Philosophy at Catholic University of America.

Churches, religious organizations, business institutions, public agencies, government departments, patriotic and political groups are constantly being visited by snoopers who report to a private, self-styled "Department of Investigation."

* As a result of this the Navy has disbanded its Counter Intelligence Section which was devoted mainly to investigating suspected Communists slated for commissions or scheduled to work in Navy yards.

The Dies Committee is catalogued as a Fascist outfit. The America First Committee was listed as an un-American movement. The American Defense Society, Inc., the Bible Cyclorama, Inc., Little Business Men of America, the Prayer League of America, the Racquet Club, the Republican Club of America, Society of the Cincinnati (composed of lineal descendants of George Washington's officers), U. S. Police Reserve Association, and the International Catholic Truth Society are named as "subversive" organizations in the "secret" files.

Investigation further discloses that the UNAMERICAN GESTAPO's listing of "borderline" subversive groups includes the American Bar Association, the Republican National Committee, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Knights of Columbus, the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The busybody snoopers of the UNAMERICAN GESTAPO are eavesdropping on everybody, anywhere and everywhere. They even listen in on radio broadcasts of possible ideological significance, analyze them and report their suspicions.

They are tapping telephones, too.

They are checking birth records, death records, hospital records, marriage records, divorce records, corporation records, employment records . . . yes, even Social Security files which are supposed to be confidential, and Selective Service records which are supposedly secret.

These private spies misrepresent themselves as "government agents," as members of Military Intelligence, as Congressional investigators, as F.B.I. agents, as newspaper reporters, as public officials, as writers, as election inspectors, as agents of the A.S.P.C.A., and as friends and relatives of prominent persons.

They are questioning employers, business people, building superintendents, elevator operators, the corner grocer, the milkman and the neighbors.

Are they asking questions about you ?

American Americans in every walk of life are being checked and double checked, not in regard to what they are doing now as members of the armed forces or as civilian patriots on behalf of our war effort, but as to their attitudes before Pearl Harbor . . . as to their economic and political views . . . as to their religious beliefs . . . as to their personal affairs.

Were they "isolationists," "appeasers"?

Are they anti-Semitic, anti-Communist, anti-New Deal?

Do they know anybody who is?

And what about their love life?

The "Chief Investigators" want to know! The Smear Bund needs a lot of dirt . . . any kind of dirt.

No loyal citizen would object to any inquiry for any legitimate purpose by responsible authorized official representatives of any investigative agency of the government, local, state or national, but the record shows that among the perpetrators of this Nazty business is a prize collection of ex-convicts, dope addicts, crack-pots and superduper phonies who are directed or aided and abetted by "smart" lawyers, "reputable" business leaders and "honorable" government officials.

These phony "investigators" and amateur spies are in the employ of such organizations as the Anti-Defamation League, the Friends of Democracy, the American Jewish Committee, the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, the American Jewish Congress, and Market Analysts, Inc., to mention a few, and their largely inaccurate and asinine "reports" have been used by such conspicuous and representative creatures of the Smear Bund as Walter Winchell, Drew Pearson and Rex Stout, and by such notorious organizations as the CIO Political Action Committee, and such subversive smear sheets as the New York Post, the Communist Daily Worker, and the alleged newspaper PM, among others.

The UNAMERICAN GESTAPO has important contacts in high places in the New Deal Administration, even in the White House Palace Guard, and it has secured the active cooperation of Government departments and agencies, including the Department of Justice. (But, not the F. B. I.).

And some of its indefensible snooping and smearing has been paid for with taxpayers' money.

Businesses have been wrecked, men have lost their jobs, reputations have been ruined, political careers have been shattered and candidates for public office have been defeated . . . all as a result of the dissemination of misinformation and the telling of half-truths and deliberate lies in the Smear, Purge and Persecution campaigns of the Defamation Network and its UNAMERICAN GESTAPO.

This Smear Bund, through a forged letter plot in 1940,

tried to discredit and destroy Representative Martin Dies and the Congressional Committee on un-American Activities.*

Through a foul frameup, it attempted to besmirch the character and reputation of Senator David I. Walsh, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee of the Senate, simply because he was an "isolationist."

It instigated and promoted the campaign to Smear and Purge Congress in 1942.

It is smearing Congress today.

Although there are many side issues involved, the main objectives of this sinister and subversive enterprise are the ruthless suppression of "old-fashioned" defenders of American tradition and the American system of society and government . . . the relentless silencing of those "nationalist" voices crying out for the preservation of American sovereignty . . . the diabolic destruction of all Constitutional barriers to collectivism . . . the subtle usurpation of administrative governmental power as a prelude to the eventual absorption of the United States into a World State of Communist structure.

Much of this usurpation of governmental power already has been achieved through the manipulation of pyramided bureaus staffed or controlled by Communist or internationalist political appointees and vested groups.

The initial concentrated attack upon Constitutional barriers being held in defense of Individualism was made in the "Smear and Purge" campaign against Congress in 1942.

The major overt attempt to silence the voice of the American people was made in the so-called "Sedition indictments." Using the slick Communist party line technique of lumping the good with the bad, a handful of patriots are bracketed with Nazi agents and convicted seditionists. Among

* Evidence is presented in the book UNAMERICAN GESTAPO to show the subversive nature of the conspiracy against Congressman Dies. It is told how David DuBois Mayne who forged the letters was brought into the plot by the Washington agent of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The letters were bought for \$105 by Harold Weisberg who was acting for Gardner Jackson, mastermind of the anti-Dies campaign. Jackson, a well known Communist fellow traveler and Left Wing busybody was acting as agent for the American Civil Liberties Union, which according to Congressional and State Legislative investigations "is a supporter of all subversive movements," is "closely affiliated with the Communist movement," and its propaganda "is dictated and dominated by Communists." The A.C.L.U. appropriated \$500 to finance Jackson's activities. Anti-Dies material for use by Jackson was prepared by Osmond K. Fraenkel, former director of the Soviet Securities Corp., and by Walter Winchell's counsel, A.C.L.U. lawyer Morris Ernst whose "visits to the White House," according to LOOK magazine, "now come about once a month . . . often they last for a week end, not just over night."

those unjustly included may be a few who were too outspoken, a few who were over enthusiastic in their defense of Constitutional government, a few who were, perhaps misguided . . . but they were none-the-less sincere and loyal to America and its institutions. The evidence and charges against some of them is so weak that the Department of Injustice hesitates to try them in court. The rest are now being prosecuted in a mass trial, a la Moscow.

Good Americans will applaud the indictment and conviction of admitted Bundists, pro-Nazis and Axis agents who are guilty of sedition. But many of those indicted are admittedly nothing more than outspoken and fanatic anti-Semites, anti-Communists and anti-New Dealers — regardless of a psychopathic prosecutor's attempt to construe these "crimes" as sedition.

¶ **Anti-Semitism is un-American, but it is not unlawful.**

¶ **To be anti-New Deal is a risky business these days, but it is not a crime.**

¶ **To preach anti-Communism may be the height of disloyalty in the Marxian minds which abound in official Washington, but it is not treason—NOT YET.**

The methods used to obtain these indictments constituted an un-American procedure which smelled to high heaven and mocked Justice. Constitutional guarantees were flaunted and the indictments were based on a tortured misinterpretation and a miserable misapplication of the law. But, the most sinister aspect of this persecution is the fact that it had its inception with the UNAMERICAN GESTAPO, which not only gave full and hearty cooperation to its official tools, but even went so far as to "frame" its victims.

None of these objectives has succeeded fully.

Nor can they succeed so long as the people of the Republic of the United States refuse to surrender Free Speech.

It is this major freedom — Free Speech — that must be destroyed first if those other freedoms — freedom of the Press and Freedom of Free Enterprise — are to be destroyed in the process of "liquidating" our Constitutional form of government.

It is in recognition of this paramount "must" that the Defamation Network and its private un-American Gestapo is now so hard at work. "Smear—Intimidate—Silence!" is its motto.

And it was in desperate furtherance of this paramount

"must" that the Nazty Network issued the smear book, **UNDER COVER**.

For **UNDER COVER**, in addition to being the amplified and extended **Mein Kampf** of the un-American Gestapo and an anthology of all previous Defamation Network libels, is the latest maneuver to silence the Voice of Liberty.

If **UNDER COVER** were only a frustration-inspired dossier of prominent Americans, anti-Communists and "Capitalist exploiters" compiled by an obscure and untalented exhibitionist; if it were only evilly inspired invective against Americanism, Patriotism and Christianity written by an alien-born bigot; if it were only a commercially inspired sop to Jewry tossed from the typewriter of an exposed anti-Semite—if **UNDER COVER** were only these things, the American reading public could dismiss it as little more than an extraordinarily offensive example of bad writing, unrestrained impertinence and exquisite bad taste.

But **UNDER COVER** is all of these things — and more.

It is both the boldest and most underhanded attack ever made upon Congress, patriotic organizations, religious sects the Army and Navy and racial minorities.

It is the most libelous and shameless attack ever made upon the honor and integrity of American statesmen, patriots, church dignitaries, industrialists and members of the armed forces.

It is the most conscienceless and subversive instrument of war-time disunity ever devised.

It is sedition.

It is treason.

For these reasons, **UNDER COVER** cannot be dismissed by the people of the United States as only a repulsive exhibition of author-publisher vulgarity or as just a sly money-making literary trick.

UNDER COVER is serving as the first and foremost political document of the 1944 Presidential campaign. It is being used to provide a reason and an excuse for the hurling of slimy epithets at any opposition. The smear words **FASCIST! NAZI! QUISLING! ISOLATIONIST! APPEASER! ENEMY WITHIN!** will be heard many, many times until November 1944. They will be used without discrimination against **AMERICANS** of all patriotic persuasions . . . and without the least justification since **UNDER COVER** cannot back up its fantastic charges.

UNDER COVER tells nothing new. It exposes no "American Quislings." It names no Axis Agents not already taken care of by Uncle Sam. It reveals no "Enemies Within." It uncovers no plot. It "uncovers" nothing that has not been uncovered before . . .

UNDER COVER is literary hash — a little fact, endless flights of fancy spiced with phony documentation and shameless lies.

UNDER COVER is the product of an organized conspiracy to defame and destroy those who believe in this country and its institutions . . . who say so out loud, and have the courage to combat our nation's real enemies within.

Fortunately, **UNDER COVER** is so obvious as an "expose" book that only a minimum of objective scrutiny is required to look past its unconscious humor, its bigotry and its obscenity, and to recognize it as a fiction and a fraud.

But that is not enough.

The people of the United States must know that **UNDER COVER** is not an end in itself . . . must understand that it is but a means to an end — only one of many means that will be used again, again and again unless the **Smear Bund** that inspired it, authored it, published it and zealously disseminated it, is exposed . . . unless the sinister forces which constitute the **Smear Bund** and its **UNAMERICAN GESTAPO** are driven from their underground anonymity, are stripped of their pretended respectability and are identified as Seditionists and Traitors.

"Washington grapevine hears that all the wire-tappings and political snoopings have been called off until after elections, so they can't become an issue in the presidential campaign."

*—Danton Walker, in his column,
May 12, 1944.*

PART II.

***A Reporter's Report to the Nation* ***

Next to the Communists and the Left Wing press, Walter Winchell, ex-isolationist and dupe of Axis agents, has been the principal promoter of UNDER COVER He plugged it constantly, even before publication, in both his daily column of calumny and weekly wail over the air . . . In his anomalous role of shrieking violet he has dubbed himself "No. 1 Salesman for UNDER COVER."

Winchell perhaps is better qualified than any other person in the United States to estimate the qualitative and quantitative value of this smelly smear book. Winchell was spreading the same smear long before "Carlson" decided to become an "investigator" for the UNAMERICAN GESTAPO and a "front" for the Smear Bund.

It was Winchell's libels and slanders that caused him to be "retired" as an officer of the United States Navy. And Secretary of the Navy Knox promised "I have no intention to call him back to active duty," rather than permit the Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives to continue a scheduled investigation into Winchell's conduct. Of course, such an investigation would have embarrassed the Navy.

Among the charges filed against Lieutenant Commander Winchell was the provable fact that he had been a pitiful dupe of Axis agents and had published and broadcast Nazi propaganda in the face of a warning by his Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt, who had declared that our great war effort must not be impeded by bogus patriots who use the sacred freedom of the press to echo the propagandists in Tokio and Berlin.

Since this serious charge is so hard for an uninformed public to believe, it will be the more convincing if Winchell should testify against himself. Take one example. On January 5, 1942 the Great Oracle was the first to tell the public:

"One of the biggest yells about Pearl Harbor, when it is aired, will be the realization that the shortage of medical sup-

* From Chapter V. UNAMERICAN GESTAPO, with added notes.

plies there necessitated an over amount of amputations among the casualties."

A month later, on Feb. 2, 1942, without mentioning the fact that he had spread the story himself, the toilet lotion salesman "colyumned" this bit of patriotic intelligence:

"The recent rumors that there were 'needless amputations at Pearl Harbor because of alleged lack of medical supplies' was apparently planted by enemy agents. Not true! —"

In the U. S. Government pamphlet, "Divide and Conquer," published by the Office of War Information, there is this illuminating reference:

"Day after day, the Axis short waves pour falsehoods into the United States. Hitler communicates with his agents here by these short-wave broadcasts. Listening to the programs, they learn the current propaganda line and immediately act upon it, spreading rumors that will leave the impression on American minds that Hitler wishes to leave. Since the war began, German short waves have shouted of . . . exaggerated losses at Pearl Harbor."

Winchell probably was not an intentional traitor in this instance. But to say by way of excuse that he had unwittingly made a mistake is to say that he is a fool. The Naval Affairs Committee had intended to find out just what a fool was doing fooling around in a Naval Officer's uniform.

It would also have been inevitable that he would have been called to account for the many defamatory broadcasts and countless column items in which he did a definite disservice to the nation, gave aid and comfort to the enemy, helped Hitler's "divide and conquer" strategy and created disunity in the war effort through vicious and unfounded sniping attacks on many loyal Americans in every walk of life, including members of the armed forces and Members of Congress.

In the book, "Smash Hitler's International," copyrighted by Time Magazine, Edmond Taylor, author of "The Strategy of Terror" and a real expert on Nazi propaganda, writes:

"Nazi political services comb the gossip columns of the American tabloids, and a sterling anti-Nazi gossipier like Walter Winchell would probably be horrified if he knew the strategic uses to which some of his little scoops might be put."

Just one of Hitler's little helpers! "Hm!"

Another charge Lt. Commander Winchell would have faced concerned his slurs against the United States Army, which had become so obnoxious that Lt. Col. James P. Wharton, Chief of Military Intelligence of the Third Corps Area, on April 13, 1942, issued a statement branding Winchell's broadcast the previous night as "detrimental to the armed forces" and "contrary to military interests."

Perhaps the most reprehensible reference to the Army, and one which could hardly be expected to lift the morale of our soldiers to a new high, was Winchell's exclusive "flash" four months after Pearl Harbor, that "the nation's richest pansy is now in the Army."

Winchell started a real furor when he falsely reported that the Army had purchased 5,000 copies of **UNDER COVER**. Several aroused Congressmen and many incensed citizens immediately inquired of the War Department if this were true, if this seditious book, which could not help but undermine Army morale, was actually being distributed in such numbers.

While a survey was being conducted, Winchell charged in effect and without foundation in fact, that the Army was suppressing the book and that Congressman Clare E. Hoffman had asked the Army to withdraw it from post libraries. By indirection he also made the false accusation that Army officers were taking the book from soldiers who had the books as their personal property. He ridiculed one Army officer because of his name, and accused two others of being liars.

On December 21, 1943, Congressman Hoffman declared on the floor of the House of Representatives that the War Department had advised him that 363 copies of the book had been bought by individual camp and post libraries and that 107 copies were on order.

"So what has Walter done here?" Mr. Hoffman asked. "He just lied when he said the Army bought 5,000 copies, and that I tried to have the books withdrawn. I simply asked the War Department how many they bought to find out how big a liar Walter was."

On one broadcast in this connection, Oct. 31, 1943, Winchell brazenly attempted to incite Army personnel to insubordination. After intimating that servicemen were being prevented from reading **UNDER COVER** by their superior officers, he advised: "In short, ladies and gentlemen, read 'Under Cover' — soldier or civilian — read it . . ."

On another occasion, Jan. 9, 1944, Winchell boasted of his deliberate intention to undermine the morale of the armed forces, especially of fighting men who had been wounded. He told of receiving complaints about Nazi prisoners of war being permitted to do their Xmas shopping in a southern city. He inferred they were practically unguarded and added: "I am sending those complaints to some friends of mine who were wounded while capturing war prisoners, I am sure they will be overjoyed — disgusted, or something . . ."

So, it is not to be wondered that the so-called newspaper PM felt obliged to report on February 11, 1943, that:

"Major General Alexander Surles (Head of War Department Public Relations) and other Army officers . . . made clear that they don't like . . . Winchell broadcasts, but didn't want to interfere directly."

The-phony-of-the-week . . .

In any investigation the question of under what circumstances, and in the pursuit of what business, Winchell wore his uniform, is bound to come up. Replying to previous criticism, Winchell has claimed that he has never broadcast his lies and slanders while in Navy uniform and he has gone so far as to offer Senator Clark of Missouri "\$100,000 in war bonds" if he could prove otherwise. For once Winchell is probably technically correct, for he sheds his coat when broadcasting and opens his collar wide so that he can rant, rave, scream and become hysterical in ease and comfort.

Navy regulations provide that when an officer removes his coat he is "out of uniform," but despite this, both the Navy Department and the Naval Affairs Committee have pictures of Winchell in uniform, in the radio studio after a broadcast, signing his autograph "with lotions of love."

Following a complaint by this writer, and in consequence, no doubt, of Winchell's misuse of his uniform, or perhaps because the Navy was ashamed to have him seen in full regalia, he was ordered to stay out of uniform in April of 1942, according to Captain Leland P. Lovette, the Navy's public relations chief.

Before this happened, Winchell made a great show of his snappy Gold Braid in the glittering hot spots of the Great White Way. He has been surly and disagreeable since.

Winchell never missed an opportunity to tell his radio audience and his newspaper readers about his "requests" for active duty, which he sometimes implied and sometimes said frankly were turned down because his superiors felt he could be of more value in his radio and newspaper work.

He told everybody who would listen that it was just breaking his heart — he wanted active service — but, since it was being denied him, he would reluctantly make the great sacrifice and continue to "serve his country" doing his job on the home front — at a mere half million dollars, or so, a year.

His "service" record, however, which Winchell just recently implied Congressman Dies has no authority to examine, shows that the sawdust sailor — the saloon skipper of the Stork Club—wrote the Bureau of Navigation on June 27, 1941,

"requesting deferred status as HE believes HE can best serve interests of Navy by remaining in an inactive status."

No wonder he hoped that Congressman Dies couldn't take a look. **"Tee-Hee!"**

There is another curious thing. On February 23, 1942, there was a line in Winchell's "col'm" which said: "On December 7, 1941, in a telegram to my commandant, I wrote: 'Respectfully request active duty.'" Certainly that would have been expected of any patriotic officer.

But the Navy's record fails to show that any such telegram was received.

Nevertheless, Winchell is a great patriot . . . he says so himself. He even contrives, quite often, to secure proof of his claim, which he publishes in his "colyum" . . . without too much show of reluctance. Take the letter from that Admiral, frinstance.

On February 22, 1943, Winchell itemed this peculiarly worded citation commending his "bravery":

"To Whom it May Concern: This is to certify that Lt. Comdr. Walter Winchell, USNR, served in a combat plane of this command. It has been reported to me that Lt. Comdr. Winchell ACTUALLY manned a cannon of one of the ships of VP-squadron while on an enemy hunt far at sea,—Jonas H. Ingram, Vice Admiral, Commanding the Allied Forces in the South Atlantic."

"Actually!" That's cute.

The Admiral must have a great sensayuma. And he's a smooth one, too . . . It went right over Walter's head.

It would be unfair, perhaps, to leave the impression that Lieutenant Commander Walter Winchell tried to shirk his duty, that he tried to avoid active service. In the early days of the war he did do a tour of "volunteer" active duty raising funds for the Navy Relief Society.

This caused Westbrook Pegler to protest that "these are not military activities and the fighting forces cannot afford to confer rank on any civilian with the understanding that he shall be excused from all risk and service and merely masquerade in uniform." Pegler declared further that the commissioning "of any individual whose sole official duty is to promote entertainments to raise money for service charities, and even that only as a part-time job, is an affront to all genuine officers and enlisted men, and the precedent has caused deep disgust and much bitterness among honorable officers, who are wholly in the service, and their families."

Unobtrusively Winchell was restored to inactive status, but throughout 1942 he made four beseeching trips to Wash-

ington and even pleaded with the President for some kind of an active berth. His experience, however, had been with another kind of "births" and so the Navy stood on its official advices to him that **"there is really no place open at present which is commensurate with your rank, experience and special talents."** In short, Winchell had no real Navy experience and as for special talents, the Navy didn't need any plain or fancy smearing done. **"Tragic, huh?"**

While Wailing Walter lays great stress on the fact that some official of great importance told him he could be of greater service to the Navy by continuing his gossipmongering "col'm" and broadcasts, the official Navy record discloses that this suggestion was made, probably without malice, as an alternative to his appointment **"in some active station of minor importance,"** which, presumably, Lieutenant Commander Winchell could have had for the asking.

But Winchell persisted and the White House influence prevailed. The result was that in December he was given a 38-day tour of "active" duty . . . in South America on terra firma. He immediately made a great mystery of his assignment; it was very secret and important! It may be that he was just ashamed . . . for the mysterious mission was nothing more than a time killer . . . something to keep him as far away from the Navy as possible.

He was ordered to Brazil and assigned to mix with the natives, get to know something about them and their country, find out what they thought about the United States and report his observations via the Navy and State Departments. And Windy Walter no spik, no savvy Portuguese. **"Haw!"**

It could be that the Navy never heard of Mr. Rockefeller, coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. It is possible, too, that they overlooked the exuberant campaign for more intimate relations conducted by our Bad Will Ambassador, Orson Welles. But they couldn't have failed to note the bad effects of Mr. Hull's Good Neighbor Policy. Maybe the Navy just wanted to get the "low-down" from an "expert."

Anyway, that is how Lieutenant Commander Walter Winchell happened to get a ride in one of the Navy's S. Atlantic planes.

They took him for a ride on a Navy ship once, too. And, thereby hangs a tale.

He had been invited aboard on the trial run of the battleship U. S. S. North Carolina. It was a great day for the Lieutenant Commander. He was in his element, gold braid, gold buttons and everything. And he made a most profound im-

pression upon the lowly "gentlemen of the press" who also went along.

Patronizingly, Lieutenant Commander Winchell informed them that there was no danger involved in the one day run. They appeared visibly relieved.

There were reports, however, that, after throwing his rank around, the synthetic sailor didn't get on so well with fellow officers who earned their stripes the hard way. They were a little stiff and formal, did not respond with sufficient warmth when he interrogated them, did not show proper deference to the noted celebrity. He is supposed to have complained.

Winchell is also said to have forgotten regulations when, with breezy Broadway informality, he fraternized with enlisted personnel. As a result, the story goes, he had words with both a chief petty officer and the Captain, and in both cases Lieutenant Commander Winchell is reported to have done most of the listening. Although there is no official confirmation, he is reputed, in Naval circles, to have made formal objection to his Skipper's language.

Ace reporter Marcia Winn wrote in the Washington (D.C.) Times-Herald that some of Winchell's fellow officers took exception to his reassurances regarding the absence of danger on the cruise. She reported one officer as saying in solemn mockery: "When we fire a broadside we drop anchor. This often causes a terrific repercussion on board, often killing men on deck."

"The visiting Lieutenant Commander was properly shocked," her account continued.

"We can't have that!" he stormed.

"What if European newspapers were to come out with headlines, America's No. 1 Patriot Killed in Sham Broadside!"

"With that he hurried below. One of his titles, America's No. 1 patriot, stuck."

It may be wrong to imply that Winchell is a coward. He does not do all his fighting with a typewriter and a "mike."

There was the Battle of the Bistro.

That was one time he did some real fighting in his Navy uniform, even if it was only in a Broadway barroom brawl. Winchell carried the attack . . . with the help of a ketchup bottle. His Gold Braid was messed up a bit, but his opponent landed in the hospital. So he won that engagement.

Bottles seem to be his favorite weapon. Once before, in Central Park Casino, he won the decision over a "drunk" with the help of a wine bottle.

Scallions To the Orchid Man . . .

You bet an investigation by the Naval Affairs Committee would embarrass the Navy.

In the Committee's files is a document which reads in part:

The American people respect the Navy uniform because those who wear it have always been held to high ideals and represent the cream of American manhood. It is evident, however, that in the case of Lt. Comdr. Walter Winchell there has been a lower standard, for in the past ten weeks he has been referred to in the public prints as "a slanderous black-guard," "a malicious liar," "a faker," "a rumorist," "a gutter-snipe columnist," "an ignorant lout," "a compound of the flotsam and jetsam of life," "a stumblebum," "a jerk," "a peeping Tom," "a zany," "a streamlined version of the school-yard sneak and peeper," "a snitch," "a tattletale," "a consummate rabble rouser," "a bedroom historian" and "a crackpot." And that does not include what he has been called in the Congressional Record.

It is interesting to note that all this . . . and more . . . has been said about Winchell without the protection of Congressional immunity . . . about which he has been making so much ado just lately. He is all of these things . . . and worse. Perhaps his own estimate of himself is as accurate as any. On several occasions while in a repentant mood he has reproached himself, saying to friends: "I know — I'm just a son-ovabitch." "Izzatzo?"

It is too bad that "an officer and a gentleman" should so conduct himself, and should be so viciously vituperative while on "volunteer active duty" for the Navy that he laid himself open to and invited such opprobrium. But he asked for it!

He has been under constant attack in Congress, too. There is, however, good reason for this, because he has been biting and bitter in his own foul assaults not only on individual members he didn't like, but also on Congress as a whole.

In his column, he has called Congress the "Washington Rogues Gallery" and "The Monkey House." He has referred to Congress contemptuously as "The House of Reprehensibles" in his radio broadcast. He has slurred the "so-called sacred portals of the Congress of the United States" in an article over his signature in Liberty Magazine. And of the official minutes of Congress, he wrote: "Why **don't** (sic!) somebody call it The Congressional Record and Beobachter?"

Since the United States entered the war, Lt. Comdr. Winchell has written and broadcast a continuing barrage of jibes and blasts at Congress and has referred to our duly elected

representatives of the people as "dopes," "hams," "soreheads," "flapjaws," "stumblebums," and "saps."

Winchell's specialty is low ridicule and he has used it overtime in his onslaught on the legislative branch of our constitutional system of government. Here is a sample:

"The big laugh of last week's doodlings down in Congress was that F. D. R. had insulted it . . . Well, muss mah cloze and call me Kunnel . . . Poor, tender, sufferin', sensitive, shy 'ittle Tondwess . . . Oo's being cwiss to mama's 'ittle Tondwess?"

Our former Minister to Canada, Hon. James H. R. Cromwell, had something pertinent to say in this regard not so long ago. Said he:

"The best way I know to open the road for dictatorship here is to ridicule Congress. Ridicule, as someone said, is a deadly weapon. Any would-be dictator knows that the quickest method of getting into power is to make the people lose confidence in the system of elected representatives . . . When you start taking cracks at Congress, you are playing right into the hands of those people who would knock democracy on the head.

"I say all this because I am convinced there is a definite plan on foot to belittle Congress and make it look as dopey as possible. But we'll all be sorry if we go along with it."

In an attempt to evade responsibility under the law for his reckless and lying slanders, Winchell has persistently libeled and smeared the whole of Congress in his attempts to bring suspicion on certain members or groups. Among the vicious and obviously false attacks were included reprehensible items like these:

"Hitler is losing on the ground in Russia, in the air over Germany, and on the sands of Africa. He seems to win only in Congress."

"While the noose is being tightened around Quislings in Europe and Asia, it would be folly and a betrayal of our heroic dead, if we let bygones be bygones for Quislings here — whether they're street-corner Hitlers . . . or Congressmen."

"Perhaps some pro-Axis Congressmen were elected to warn us what kind of Government we'd have if Hitler won."

"Some of the pro-Nazis who got by the voters still have to get by the F. B. I."

"According to recently published figures, the Nazis now have about 400 Divisions left . . . And how many Congressmen?"

"Congress includes some of the sorriest 'stumblebums' in the Nation."

"Many of Hitler's American pals have been arrested but too many have been renominated."

"Don't be depressed because some Nazi boosters got into Congress."

"The only trouble with the sedition indictments is that while the defendants are in court some of their supporters are still in Congress."

"He'll go down in history as the Louse of Representatives." (which might refer to any one of 435 Congressmen.)

"Our favorite Congressman just got laryngitis!" (He quotes a Hitler General as saying, again without identifying the member.)

"How about the voters going after those other saboteurs who landed in Congress?"

"Another reason some Congressmen are demanding the eight saboteurs be shot is that they might talk too much."

At the time Jergens' Jerque was writing the last two items above and while implication of treason was being made against Congressmen who could have had no possible connection with the affair, an employee of Winchell's boss, Andrew Jergens, was arrested for complicity in the sensational case involving the eight saboteurs, six of whom were later executed. Her name was Hedwig Engemann and she was shown to have aided Edward John Kerling who was executed. Miss Engemann pleaded guilty to misprision of treason and was sentenced to prison. But Winchell took particular pains not to mention Miss Engemann's treason.

Another Jergens employee, Elfrieda Siddell, was interned in a concentration camp at the same time. **"Hmf!"**

Winchell made a vague mention of this on his radio broadcast, but falsely implied to the listeners-in that he and his boss Jergens were responsible for the apprehension of this Nazi. Actually, Jergens did everything in his power to help Miss Siddell, who was his personal secretary. He testified at length in an endeavor to prevent her detention. While she was in custody during hearings he offered money to have her held in a hotel suite instead of in jail. He phoned her long distance almost daily from all parts of the country and sent expensive clothing. On all this, Winchell was silent as a tomb.

Also, at about this same time, Government agents picked up one of Walter's favorite waiters at his hang-out, the Stork Club, a high-class saloon graduated from a speakeasy. Now, instead of serving "Hamburger a la Walter Winchell" (\$1.85), or "Tomato Surprise a la Winchell" (\$1.60), waiter Schramm is in an internment camp as an enemy alien.

That Winchell's propaganda against Congress is having the desired effect is seen by a post card sent to a Congressman and inserted into the Congressional Record of March 30, 1944. It said:

"What are the saboteurs doing in Congress? Why doesn't Congress clean its own house?"

That Winchell's propaganda is reaching and undermining the morale of America's fighting men was evidenced in a letter the little Vendor of Venom published in his own 'col'm.' It was from M'Caw General Hospital, Walla Walla, Washington, and read:

"I wish you could see the fellows here listening to you. Their emotions are intense in their faces. And when you tell us about certain congressmen hampering the war effort — you should see their fists clench. Even with their malaria and wounds — you can't picture their icy contempt for these politicians and their double talk. I tell you the returned soldiers are getting madder and we lean on men such as you to keep us informed. (God forbid. — Ed.), Sincerely, PVT. W."

Of course, there is a political motive behind this phase of Winchell's activities. He has betrayed himself on many occasions, the most notable of which was when he became so incensed over the fact that his principal targets in Congress had been returned to their seats that he told off the voters themselves. After admitting his prejudice against certain unnamed members of Congress, he ranted:

"What worries me most are all those damned fools who re-elected them."

It will be seen that Winchell's unspeakable methods and his indulgence in mere vituperation has not only been effective in smearing the objects of his attack, but has had the perfectly natural but unfortunate effect of evoking a response. We find dignified and respected members of Congress bandying personalities with him in self-defense, forgetting that the man who has presumed to give them battle is beneath contempt and insult.

Walter Winchell has been called almost everything under the sun on the floor of the House of Representatives, and the Senate, too, has heard him castigated in such terms as probably have never been applied to any other man.

Winchell has engendered so much hate that the Congress is almost unanimously against him. Only four members of the House of Representatives, Congressmen Sabath, Magnuson, Klein and Dickstein, have taken the floor to offer even a mild defense in his behalf in the face of a series of angry speeches made mainly by Congressmen Hoffman, Rankin and Dies during which Winchell's lies and smears have been thoroughly debunked.

By citing chapter and verse, Congressman Hoffman demonstrated to his colleagues that "Winchell tells falsehoods,

complete falsehoods; falsehoods by way of half-truths; falsehoods by innuendo, by insinuation, by inflection — not once in a while, not now and then, not inadvertently, but as a matter of habit; that falsehood is a part of his stock and trade; that he is untruthful because the truth is not in him."

"I am a little skittish," said Mr. Rankin, "about a man who has his nose manicured, his face lifted, his name changed, and then goes on the radio to try to smear somebody else."

On January 6, 1944, Representative Rankin called the attention of the House to a Winchell column in which the sadistic scribbler told his readers to clip and mail one of his items about a Jewish sergeant who had shot down ten Jap planes, to "Congressman Rankin at the House of 'Reprehensibles', Washington, D. C."

After telling his colleagues that "my hat is off to Sergeant Segal or to anyone else, whether he is a Jew or a Gentile, who is now in the Army fighting the battles of this war," Congressman Rankin said:

"In my opinion, Walter Winchell and PM are doing the Jewish people more harm than any other two outfits in America. I said something to a Jewish friend of mine the other day about Walter Winchell.

'Well', he said, 'he is a kike'.

I asked, 'What is a kike?'

He said, 'A kike is a Jew that is so detested that the other Jews are ashamed of him, the Gentiles despise him, and the intelligent negroes have contempt for him.' "

This attack on Winchell was so well received that almost the entire House stood up and applauded.

When on a coast-to-coast broadcast a few weeks later, Winchell by inference 'accused two Congressmen, both respectable family men, of being perverts, Representative Rankin, on Feb. 22, 1944, made another speech in which he declared:

"Walter Winchell, that little Communistic kike, who is doing more to stir up anti-Semitism in this country and doing more to injure President Roosevelt than any other man alive . . . touched the lowest segment of infamy ever reached by a radio broadcaster in America.

"How much longer," Rankin asked, "will the decent people of America have to endure such filth and the decent patriotic Jews of America have to endure the punishment he is bringing upon them?"

Quotation Marxmanship . . .

Winchell, of course, probably is not a Communist . . . he is much worse than a Communist . . . he just helps along the Communist "line" while masquerading as "America's No. 1 patriot."

He probably is not a Communist, but . . . according to his column of July 2, 1943, he thinks "Lenin was a handy chap around a Government." Lenin is the little tin god of modern Communism.

He probably is not a Communist, but . . . in his column of March 28, 1943 he squawked because the New York Sun, in reporting a debate on "Is Communism a Menace?", gave its own columnist George E. Sokolsky, more space than it gave to Earl Browder, ex-convict Communist leader, pardoned by President Roosevelt in the interest of national unity.

He probably is not a Communist, but . . . on Nov. 6, 1942, he printed an alibi for "innocent persons" who signed their names to Communist Party election petitions.

He probably is not a Communist, but . . . he was sued for \$200,000 in Chicago for re-hashing a libelous story from the Daily Worker for an article which appeared in Liberty Magazine under his signature.

He probably is not a Communist, but . . . in the Navy Department files is a demand for an investigation of Lieutenant Commander Walter Winchell by the Bureau of Naval Intelligence on the grounds:

1. That he has dubious connections with the un-American underworld.
2. That he has retained as his counsel an official of a Communist "transmission belt" which was exposed and condemned by Naval Intelligence.
3. That he has financed the dissemination of Communist literature which was so libelous that it was later withdrawn from circulation.
4. That he numbers among his protégés the most scurrilous propagandist of our times, who won notoriety by attempting to blacken the American Red Cross.
5. That he is repeating libels concocted by Communist henchmen and is therefore just a utensil of the Communist movement.
6. That he is doing the Communists' dirty work by smearing their most effective opponents.
7. That he has slyly patted Communists on the back.
8. That, therefore, in posing as a patriot, he is a sham and a fraud, a disgrace to the uniform he wears and is not to be trusted as a commissioned officer of the United States Navy.

In a bill of particulars to Secretary of the Navy Knox, the following appears:

During the past few months, at your direction, some 1,000 maritime workers were discharged from their jobs on American merchantmen "as a matter of precaution in the interest of defense." * In view of your action I am privileged to conclude that you are aware that the National Maritime Union has long been under Communist control. This charge has been publicly made on innumerable occasions and it is likewise fair to assume that an "expert" like Lt. Commander Winchell, who poses as knowing everything, must have had very definite knowledge of this fact, too. Is it not rather odd, then, to say the least that Lt. Commander Winchell should follow up your action by giving a Naval "salute" to this Communist-controlled union in both his column and over the air? Do you not think this brazen attempt to confuse your action in the public mind needs to be explained?

While Winchell has been a tool of Communists and has given them some cooperation, the very nature of most of his items in this regard might possibly indicate that his course has not been dictated by any love for Communism. Winchell is an opportunist. He cooperates with any un-American, unscrupulous element which can advance his interest. On the other hand he has made attacks on the Communists.

Here is his idea of an "anti-Communist" tirade in his column of July 22, 1943:

"Communism was a ready-made scare, largely because the Commies in all the lands were such blunderers. The world was full of people who got as mad as bulls when you waved Red at them. The shady set in all lands found it useful to cover up their swindels. Nothing was too fantastic to serve as a club against the Bolo . . ."

And the Communists have denounced him too, although infrequently, but at the moment they are giving him 1000 percent support in his controversy with Congressman Dies.

On Feb. 2, 1944, the Communist Daily Worker in charging that opposition to Communism in America was detrimental to the war effort, declared: "And a Jewish-American newspaperman, Walter Winchell, rushes forward to help the Nazis in spreading the propaganda in America."

The result is Winchell is becoming both confused and confusing. You can't constantly applaud the Washington So-

* Eventually these Communists were reinstated with back pay. When Admiral Stanford C. Hooper, who was subsequently forced to retire because of his stand on this and other issues involving Communism in the Navy, made a protest, Secretary Knox told him: "That is a command from the White House and you have to obey it as well as I do."

cialists, boost your pet Communist, act as a mouthpiece for the Party Line and the fellow-travellers and at the same time maintain an undiluted 101 percent anti-Communist patriotism.

Odd News, Exclusive News . . .

Winchell came into prominence in New York originally as a pal of top-flight gangsters. In appreciation of his possibilities, Owney Madden, Public Enemy No. 1 during the prohibition era, gave him a snazi red sport roadster. Later, after the law caught up with Madden, Winchell returned the compliment by asking the Parole Board to free the gangster chief. Not to be outdone, Lucky Luciano, king of the prostitution racket, provided Winchell with armed body-guards — two cousins of Al Capone among them.

During this period, too, a New York Grand Jury heard testimony accusing Winchell of being the instigator of an abortive plot to murder. He was charged with having tried to get his gangster friends to put his editor "on the spot."

Winchell was held in such high esteem by New York's gangland that when Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, master mind of Murder, Inc., recently electrocuted in Sing Sing, decided to surrender, he contacted the columnist, who acted as go-between and delivered him to the Federal authorities.

Winchell was "O. K. with the mob," said Madden.

In his early days his connection with the underworld was so close that he was able to predict the murder of Vincent Coll a full six hours before the gangster was machine-gunned to death. The gang considered this a breach of confidence and decided to bump off Winchell as a double-crosser. Learning about it in advance, he succeeded in making a deal. In exchange for his life he paid over his life savings of \$90,000.

Winchell was born in New York City on April 7, 1897. His name, according to CURRENT BIOGRAPHY, "has been variously reported as Lipschitz, Hirschfield, Weinshield and Bakst".

In the Congressional Record of June 10, 1940, he is called "Moses Weinstein, alias Walter Winchell."

In the Congressional Record of August 6, 1941, he is referred to as "Walter Lipshitz, alias Winchell."

In a devastating profile on "Winchell, the Pop-gun Patriot," which appeared in the Washington Times-Herald on

July 19, 1942, Georgiana X. Preston declared: "Winchell's right name, of course, is not Winchell. Various of his friends of early days have suggested it was either Lipschitz, or Bakst, but Winchell has entered almost hysterical denial. His story is that the name originally was Winchel, but that he himself added the other 'l' under inspiration provided by a sign painter, who contracted to letter a door for his Uncle, but proved too generous with the 'l's. It just goes to show that sign painters can't be too careful . . ."

"Winchell refused to talk in any but the vaguest terms of his family background, but a certificate on file in New York's Bureau of Vital Statistics, one of the few official documents of the family that could be found — notes that the country of his forebears is Russia. Of course, there is no such name as Winchell, or Winchel, in Russia."

In fact the name on the certificate appears to be so new that there was difficulty in spelling it . . . it is spelled in two different ways. Walter's name is listed as "Winschel."

It is known, however, that Winchell's father used the name of Jacob Laino, and that Winchell assumed the name of "Lawrence" in his youth.

"Our real name," he once wrote with a show of impatience, is "Schmaltz."

Our guess would be that Winchell's real name (if it ever comes out) is, or should be, Vevele Weinschul, which is a good, honest respectable name.

Winchell's reluctance to frankly discuss his origin and background, however, leads to the inescapable conclusion that he has something to hide.

In her Times-Herald profile, Miss Preston also said:

"We have a sort of guilty feeling about Winchell. If ever a human was born to be a nonentity, to become nothing more harmful than a neighborhood pest, it was this nameless product of New York's East Side. If we — meaning literally thousands of Americans — hadn't encouraged him to pander to our lowest tastes, about the worst he'd be doing today would be to snitch on some girl or fellow in the block who neglected to pull the shades tightly. Until we created this thing that goes by the name of Winchell, all good Americans had been brought up to believe that gossip, particularly malicious gossip, was abhorrent . . ."

When providing biographical material on himself, Winchell appears to have been just as careless and inaccurate as

he is in his column and broadcasts. His sketch in "Who's Who in American Jewry" disclosed that he was married in 1919. His listing in the "Biographical Encyclopedia of American Jews" has him married in 1922, while in "Current Biography," the date of his marriage is stated as being 1923.

Next to his reputation for inaccuracy, Winchell is perhaps best known for his physical cowardice. It is not just a question of his being afraid of what his victims might do to him . . . although the public beating he received at the hands of Al Jolson for allegedly slandering Ruby Keeler (Mrs. Jolson at the time) has no doubt left a strong impression . . . he is just afraid . . . afraid of his shadow . . . afraid of the dark . . . afraid to pass an undertaking parlor by himself . . . terrified at the smell of embalming fluid.

In order to overcome this fear complex and to bolster his courage, if any, Walter packs, not one "gat," but two. So much was said about this that Winchell became self-conscious and sought to explain in his column of May 19, 1942:

"For many years the Butte (Montana) Daily Bulletin slugged courageously against the no-goods, regardless of how powerful they were. Because of that, they had to keep loaded rifles in the city room — and every reporter had a gun laying beside his typewriter . . . This reporter has also never stopped firing his typewriter guns against the slimey members of our community and country, in spite of all kinds of threats. Yet some people wonder why we tote a .38."

His third most important characteristic is his yen for meddling in other people's affairs. Even as a yeoman in the Navy in World War 1, he couldn't mind his own business. TIME Magazine reported that "he fought the War in New York City in the Custom House as receptionist to the late Rear Admiral Marbury Johnston, and it was prophetic that he seared his nose in a candle flame when, instead of giving his full attention to applying sealing wax to envelopes, he tried to hear what the Admiral was telling some other officers about the impending armistice."

In the long period since that time, the peep-hole peeper has not only been poking his nose into other people's business, but has been rattling skeletons in other people's closets with a bland arrogance that suggested he had none of his own to worry about.

But there is a skeleton in Winchell's closet and it is a real one. Real enough so that Winchell, who is not known as a spendthrift, paid out \$1,500 to "blackmailers" to keep it out of the newspapers. Sorry . . . no details. There is only one

reporter . . . "your New York reporter" . . . who is low enough to print the story. And he'll probably explain that it's a military secret and can't be made public until after the war. If you are exceptionally interested, however, and cannot wait, you can satisfy your curiosity by inspecting the blotter at New York's 30th Precinct Police Station for May 23, 1930, or you can take a peek at Magistrate's Court file No. 3592.

However, as a foul-mouthed Maestro of Innuendo and Legalized Slander, Walter Winchell has dealt mainly in dirt. While he looks for, finds, capitalizes on and broadcasts dirt . . . just any kind of dirt . . . most times with a deceitful, deceiving, unfair and untrue emphasis, his specialty has always been the pointing-up of extra-marital dallies or girlesque philanderings of names in the news.

Nine times out of ten, Winchell doesn't know what he is talking about . . . but that's a minor detail with him.

Ferdinand Lundberg, in a piece written in 1942, described the Lieutenant Commander's contributions to the war effort in this fashion:

"Winchell's writings . . . concern only the boudoir and the bordello . . . his preoccupation with seduction, wooing, fornication, copulation, conception, pregnancy, parturition, adultery and perversion is pursued out of a spirit of pure malice and vindictiveness."

If some other columnist wanted to stoop to Winchell's level he could write a real hot squib, and, to boot, be more factual than the great "W. W." usually is. He could item:

"What vocal publisher of what one-man newspaper is hoping that J. Edgar Hoover's sleuths won't follow up that investigation of a prominent west coast Mann Actor by looking into the affairs of the country's leading sexpert on patriotism and Constitutional law . . . The 'baby doll' who shuttled across nine state lines between Miami and New York in upper berths . . . he was that cheap . . . was what Errol Flynn called 'jail bait' when they first started to sizzle . . . under sixteen. Clew for Mr. Hoover: Her initials could be M. L. B."

Or he could paragraph a tear jerker with hilarious overtones like this:

"**BROADWAY HEARTBREAK:** He was big time . . . but married. She was a chorus doll . . . but young. They met . . . made merry . . . became mad about each other. . . at least she did. For years they rondavooed on the Q. T. . . he had to be careful . . . had a rep . . . a respectable home life to live up to . . . and he had "enemies" whose love life he'd gossiped about. Haunted by the prospect of being "caught" he took precautions. Bravely . . . because she cared . . . she kept her chin up. But her heart is heavy because it's no fun when her beau comes a courtin' and keeps his hat and overcoat on . . . for appearances sake . . . just in case."

Or he could be real nazty and ask:

"What was Walter Winchell doing in Towson, Maryland, not so long ago?"

Attention Mr. & Mrs. United States:

Winchell has convinced himself that he is not only a heavy thinker, but that he is just about the only man on earth who knows how the war is to be run, how our international problems are to be handled and how the peace is to be arranged. He has "told off" our Generals, the State Department, the Attorney General and even the President, among others. He has ignored the governmental mechanism set up under the Constitution and, speaking for the United States, has attempted to interfere in the affairs of foreign nations.

Winchell does not want it to be forgotten that this second World War was declared after the British Prime Minister had received cabled advices from him to declare war on Germany. He has gone out of his way to let the inference be drawn that he had influenced Chamberlain.

Accordingly, he has been particularly bitter against what he calls "iso-louse-tionists," hoping that the American people will forget that Mr. Winchell was an original and outspoken "Nazilationist," to use another of his pet terms.

In April 1939 he probably outdid Senators Wheeler and Nye and Col. Lindbergh put together when he wrote:

"Once again Europe is rolling the loaded dice of destiny. Once again her miserable diplomats are pointing down the one-way street to war. And once again America is asked to play her role of the great international sucker. The time has come for us to pause and consider. If we must have another unknown soldier, let us not ask him to die for an unknown reason. And just what will be accomplished by dying in the mud? He will not increase America's resources; the last war nearly ruined the great plains. He will not increase America's wealth. In the last war we loaned our gold and were gold-bricked in return. He will not increase our liberties, for no man may protest slaughter after it starts. We must develop our youth, not sacrifice it. The future of American youth is on top of American soil, not underneath European dirt."

Even as late as March 17, 1940, after the European war started, Winchell was still an isolationist insofar as the United States was concerned. In response to an inquiry from the London Daily Mail in which he was asked, "Why the Ameri-

can people were eager to 'stop Hitler' before the Allies decided to do so, but are now following a 'keep out of war at all costs' policy," Winchell answered:

"We have good reason to distrust Europe . . . Twenty years ago we had faith. Now we have experience. We have eleven billion dollars in war debts to remind us that Europe's commercial promises are no good . . . We think Europe is morally bankrupt; and that it is a quaint European custom to cry about universal liberty to protect a selfish national policy . . . Under certain conditions, if necessary, we will fight to the death. But this time it will only be to defend our own country."

In spite of all this, Winchell has had the gall not only to continue to condemn his former isolationist friends, but to question their present support of the war effort. On his broadcast of Jan. 31, 1943, in directing his criticism at members of Congress, he said:

"You bet I am prejudiced against those in high office who guessed so wrong before Pearl Harbor . . . I am not in the least comforted by their confessions of ignorance."

In the O. W. I. booklet, "Divide and Conquer," there is a passage that applies to people like Winchell. In speaking of isolationist sentiment, held by many before Pearl Harbor, the pamphlet goes on to say:

"Today most of these Americans have recanted publicly or in private. A few mumble, 'I told you so' — and hope no one will remember what it was they really told."

In response to a particularly bitter assault he made on "midwest isolationism," the editor of the Nebraska City News-Press returned the "retort wonderful:"

"We of the 'Isolationist Belt', as Brother Winchell refers to us, know just as much about this war as he does, only we are not boasting about donating our composite or individual weeks' pay to the United Service Organizations, Navy Relief, or some other charity. We go ahead donating without the impetus of publicity.

"None of us wears a Navy Reservist uniform to work — our idea being that a naval outfit belongs to a Navy man who is on the firing line, not on a gent standing before a mike ripping it into people with whom he does not always agree."

Winchell has become such a fanatic on the general subject of so-called Isolationism and Nationalism that he screams "Nazi" and "Un-American" at everyone who is outspokenly pro-American.

You would think, to hear him talk, that nobody was do-

ing anything to help win the war but Walter Winchell.

Much has been said by Winchell and his co-smearers about Winchell's "important" contributions to the war effort. He did adopt a Chinese baby, but the exact nature of other contributions remains vague, with the exception of his asserted contribution to Navy Relief of his salary and allowances while on "active" duty. But Lieutenant Commander Winchell's active duty orders with the Navy embraced only 78 days following Pearl Harbor — and but 41 days of this period actually were served under specific orders. Apparently on his own responsibility Winchell restored himself to inactive duty and loafed around Miami acquiring a Pacific combat zone sun-tan until the Navy, under pressure, officially "retired" him 37 days later.

Base pay of \$250 a month was drawn for the entire 78 day period, of course. But, since Winchell's over-all income is subject to a 91 percent income tax, according to his own statement, his munificent "contribution" to Navy Relief was, as far as arithmetic is to be trusted, approximately \$58.27. "*Omigahd!*"

Further evidence of Winchell's "contributions" and self-sacrifice in the interests of the war effort is found in a "no blackout" ultimatum involving the Army, the Office of Civilian Defense and Mayor LaGuardia of New York City. A blackout had been ordered for 9 o'clock Sunday night, Feb. 26, 1944 — and 9 o'clock is Walter's radio time for the protection of "soft, smooth, romantic hands" with Jergens' lotion. Alarmed more over his Crossley radio rating than over the protection and security of America's largest city, Winchell protested to Mayor LaGuardia. La Guardia was adamant; the blackout would be carried out as scheduled, he declared. "In that case," Winchell notified New York's anti-gambling Mayor, "when I am on the air during the blackout I will announce that the only lights on in Manhattan are at City Hall, where a poker game is going on." This patriotic bit of blackmail worked. The blackout time was changed to 9:30.

Yet, according to Winchell, officials who can't be named "until after the war" say a lot of important things to back him up and commend him for his "unselfish service," the nature of which, he says, must remain a military secret.

Not only was the Arm Chair Admiral unwilling to make an inconsequential contribution to the war effort on the home

front, he reached a new "patriotic" low by smearing General Douglas MacArthur, the hero of the Pacific. The fact that this may have been done as an act of blind political allegiance to a Commander-in-Chief, whose Fourth Term incumbency was being threatened, only adds to the infamy.

Incensed by the subversive nature of the attack, Congressman A. L. Miller of Nebraska, on March 16, 1944 called it "a deliberate attempt by anti-American smear artists of a termite variety . . . to poison the minds of the American people by launching a near slanderous and abusive attack upon a great commander in our armed forces.

"I believe the attack in the Communist Daily Worker, PM, and echoed by Walter Winchell, king of the smear artists, comes as near being a treasonable act as I have ever read," he said.

Mairzy Doatzy Department . . .

A book could be written on the misstatements of fact, advertent and inadvertent errors, deliberate lies and false innuendos which crowd the columns and broadcasts of this High Priest of the Sanhedrin of Smear. His inveracity and utter unreliability is so well-known, however, that it would be "carrying coals to Newcastle" to devote any considerable space to this phase of his activity. Consider just a few items:

One classic illustration is the story he told on the air and repeated in his column of Feb. 8, 1943, about the alleged technique employed by the F.B.I. to trap Nazi agents who were supposedly responsible for the leakage of highly confidential information in connection with the Roosevelt-Churchill Casablanca confab. He told his radio audience and his readers that 22 men had been trapped, "some of whom are said to be high in U. S. Gov't circles."

Next day, a spokesman for J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the F. B. I., explained to reporters that no one had been taken into custody and that "the F. B. I. knows nothing about this particular case." An inquiry at the War Department evoked the facetious suggestion that "since Mr. Winchell is a Commodore of some sort, you had better contact the Navy." Navy officials said they knew nothing about the matter either.

There probably would have been no World War No. 2 if Walter Winchell was the expert on international affairs he pretends to be, for on March 29, 1937 he announced with-

out reservation that "Adolf and Benito had phfft! The break will be officially announced soon enough."

And, there would be no concern about a possible fourth term for President Roosevelt if Winchell really had the inside dope and knew what he was talking about when he emphatically declared four years ago: "You can safely wager that F. D. R. positively will not run in 1940."

The New Yorker Magazine at the time it published a series of profiles on the "gossip writer" conducted an extensive survey which showed that he is right only 41% of the time. "In short, ladies and gentlemen" about 60% of Winchy's "exclusives," "scoops," "inside dope" and "flashes" are probably incorrect or false, the magazine indicated.

Winchell's pose as a military authority has its humorous aspects. Early in March, 1944, he told his readers a fantastic story about a Jap prisoner who had supposedly been captured at Dutch Harbor where he had been hiding out "since the Americans re-took the spot." The Jap, according to Winchell, concealed a grenade in his loin cloth and blew himself and five naval officers to bits as he was being questioned.

Reporters in the Aleutians tried to check Winchell's "scoop" with Col. William Verbeck, G-2 Intelligence Officer.

"I don't know," the Colonel said with a broad grin, "how we could 'retake' Dutch Harbor as the Japs never had it in the first place.

"Furthermore", he added, "the whole story is untrue. I know, because I was there."

Winchell, as a Naval officer, is a joke. He knows so little about the Navy that on May 8, 1944, he itemed: "Gypsy Mark-off's big moment is Col. C. Phillips, the Navy flier." Who but Winchell ever heard of Colonels in the Navy? And to make Winchell's "low-down" 200% inaccurate, the Navy has no flier by that name and the Marine Corps can't locate him either.

How little Winchell actually knows about what is going on and an indication of how he manufactures items out of whole cloth in order to give the idea that he is an outstanding enemy of so-called "subversives" is shown in his column of April 5, 1944. He wrote:

"Lawrence Dennis, indicted on sedition charges and George Sylvester Viereck (out on bail pending appeal of his prison term for Nazi agenting) trading glares with a columnist."

George Sylvester Viereck has been in jail since July 16,

1943. His bids for release on bail pending appeal had been turned down and at the time Winchell's item appeared his two appeals had already been denied. Lawrence Dennis was in Chicago when the item appeared, had been there for a week previous conferring with his attorneys. and prior to that time had been in Washington in connection with his case. In short, the item was 100 percent phony.

In a slightly different category is the "Flash" item Captain Eddie Rickenbacker mentions in the November, 1943, issue of the AMERICAN MAGAZINE. He wrote:

"Once I heard a voice on the radio beside my bed say, 'Flash! It is now confirmed that Eddie Rickenbacker is dying and will not live over an hour.' It was Walter Winchell. It made me madder than hell."

An ideological analysis of Winchell's column will show a very definite Left Wing bias. He never misses an opportunity to take a back-handed slap at some Capitalist and by the same token is forever giving "orchids" to some pet Red or Radical enterprise.

On Jan. 17, 1944, he took on the great U. S. Steel Corporation, accused it of perpetrating "one of the biggest grabs of the war" and intimated that, with Government connivance, it had taken advantage of property owners at Homestead, Pa. by beating them out of 90 percent of their property value and then suggested that the Company was deliberately neglecting to produce steel to the detriment of the war effort.

Two days later, Bert F. Kline, editor of the Homestead Daily Messenger, wrote a letter to Winchell in which he said: "Your column of January 17th carried a paragraph on 'the biggest grab of the war', the most unfounded statements I have ever read. Now please get me straight. I have always admired your forthrightness and fearlessness and I wonder where you got all the misinformation carried in that one paragraph."

In an editorial, Editor Kline declared: "Winchell always has leaned toward sensationalism, but we we were always of the opinion that he investigated his stories and dealt pretty much with fact. Our opinion has been changed for we have never seen a statement that deviates more from the truth . . . Winchell is dead wrong and the statements he made never did occur."

There is hardly a single column or broadcast in which Winchell does not betray his lack of breeding. What other

writer, or alleged writer, would be so lacking in common decency as to make cracks about Mrs. Roosevelt's teeth? Of course that was before he became a White House hatchet man for Mr. Roosevelt.

Years ago, before Winchell became a "patriot" and began his career as a political smearer . . . when it was good Party Line doctrine to debunk our national heroes . . . he started out by doing a job on George Washington . . . ridiculing his false teeth . . . raking over his domestic troubles . . . "exposing" his alleged illicit love life.

It will undoubtedly be hard for many people in his vast audience who look up to him as an intellectual giant to realize that the man is so ignorant that he once wrote glibly in his column about the seaport of Paris, (which caused his editor to buy him a map) and referred to Emile Zola as a famous woman writer. But it is not so surprising when we find him boasting of the fact that he was "practically expelled from school for being a dunce."

He plumbed the depths however, and gave insult to the Catholic world when he cast aspersions on the morals of a Saint. To show his intimate knowledge of history, he made crude, offensive and vulgar references to St. Joan d' Arc. "Too much sex appeal forced her to discard her dresses for male apparel and too much sex appeal caused her to fasten them down with plenty of buttons," he wrote.

Representatives of the New York Mirror were profuse in their apologies to the Catholic hierarchy for the unspeakable slur and indecency . . . they pleaded that this sacrilege was due altogether to Mr. Winchell's gross ignorance.

He antagonized American Catholics again a few years ago when he helped to spread a despicable and degrading smear (which the F.B.I. and both Army and Navy Intelligence found to be untrue), against Senator David I. Walsh, prominent Catholic layman. The result was that the National Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus, meeting in Milwaukee on June 28, 1942, passed a resolution calling on the Federal Communications Commission to bar Winchell from further use of the broadcasting facilities of the nation.

Of recent years, Winchell has discovered a new racket which fits in very nicely with the pernicious political propaganda purposes for which his column and broadcast are being used. Employing the guile and trickery of a medicine show quack, he bamboozles his audience with a lot of fire-

eating fulminations and fantastic fol-de-rol and then sells them the snake oil . . . a book . . . sometimes a smutty, sexy aphrodisiac . . . more often a screed of slime and slush by some fellow-traveler of the Smear Bund . . .

He has plugged books like "The Bedroom Companion," which he says is "Gayer than DeMaupassant!"; "The Illustrious Dunderheads," with illustrations by Gropper, cartoonist for the Communist Daily Worker, which reviled and ridiculed members of Congress; "Sabotage," by two Communist Party-line authors; UNDER COVER, of course, and "Secret Armies" by John Spivak, leading Communist propagandist.

Winchell not only endorsed "Secret Armies", which was similar to UNDER COVER, attacking some of the same people, but paid to have a copy sent to each Congressman. Representative Shafer of Michigan exposed the book on the floor of the House and told his colleagues:

"John L. Spivak is a writer for the Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party in America. He is a writer for the New Masses, another Communist publication; writer for the South Today, Communist publication, the editorial board of which is made up of James Ford, Communist Party candidate for Vice President in 1936, Harry Haywood, William Patterson and Robert Minor, all notorious Communists."

In concluding his remarks, Representative Shafer said: "It is to be regretted that Walter Winchell has become a ballyhooer of 'Red' propaganda in advertising 'Secret Armies' over the radio and in his newspaper column."

Then a good American sued for libel. Charges made in the book were found to be untrue. The publishers agreed "not to re-print or distribute any more copies of 'Secret Armies' subsequent to (Dec. 13, 1940) unless all references to (the good American) are first deleted therefrom."

Things You Never Knew Till Now . . .

No one man, not even the great "W. W." himself could make all the mistakes, concoct all the smears and think up all the lies that tumble with such boisterous abandon and profusion from Winchell's typewriter and mike. To help him Walter Winchell has at his beck and call the satraps, the satellites, the sycophants and stooges of the Smear Bund.

Some of Winchell's choicest morsels have come from such tyros of smear as Richard Rollins, born Isadore Rothberg, and

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Dorothy Kahn Wursburger Kalen, alias Dorothy Waring, alias Mary Gaffney, etc., of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights; Robert Greenfield, Arnold Foster, born Abraham Fastenberg, and Helmut Oberwinder, alias John C. Metcalf, of the Anti-Defamation League; Albert E. Kahn of New Currents and PM and Walter Lowenfels of the Communist Daily Worker.*

Is it any wonder that William Randolph Hearst, Walter Winchell's employer, found it necessary in March 1938 to wire the editors of his chain of newspapers:

PLEASE EDIT WINCHELL VERY CAREFULLY AND
LEAVE OUT ANY DANGEROUS OR DISAGREEABLE
PARAGRAPHS. INDEED, LEAVE OUT THE WHOLE
COLUMN WITHOUT HESITATION, AS I THINK HE
HAS GOTTEN SO CARELESS THAT HE IS NO LONGER
OF ANY PARTICULAR VALUE.

Is it any wonder that the Andrew Jergens Company found it necessary to hire a lawyer, one Henry Alexander, to edit Winchell's radio scripts before he goes on the air?

Is it any wonder that the Blue Network, after its officials were summoned to Washington for conferences with Major General Surles and other Army officers, found it necessary to promulgate a special broadcaster's code in order to cope with Winchell's indiscretions? "My fangs have been removed," said Winchell using the proper metaphor.

Is it any wonder that Lennen & Mitchell, the advertising agency which handles the Andrew Jergens Company's radio account, began to blue pencil Winchell's scripts?

Is it any wonder that in final desperation, after Winchell had maliciously attacked and provoked Congressman Martin Dies into a public controversy, the Jergens' lawyers, the ad-

* Lieutenant Commander Winchell used to get authentic secrets from Sergeant Peter J. Innes, one of the founders of the National Maritime Union, who was doing under cover work for the Army in the Corps of Intelligence Police, Governors Island, N. Y. An investigation of Sergeant Innes and his activities by Military Intelligence resulted in his being court-martialed and sentenced to seven years imprisonment. One fact which came out in the secret inquiry was that Winchell had tried to have two men placed with Army Intelligence. One was connected with the Coordinating Committee for Democratic Action, an important unit of the Smear Bund since merged with the Friends of Democracy. The other was from the smear sheet PM.

vertising agents, the Blue Network officials and the sponsor himself combined to restrain Winchell's malicious ruthlessness in the face of rising public indignation?

Each time an attempt was made to restrain him, Winchell agreed reluctantly, sometimes after quite a show of belligerence. But, almost invariably, he ignored his commitments, actual or implied, and proceeded to show his lack of character and principle by committing new excesses.

As an aftermath of the Winchell-Dies controversy another attempt was made to keep him within the bounds of decency. This time his sponsors, the Andrew Jergens Company, on the Sunday following Mr. Dies' broadcast, had the program announcer tell the listening public that Winchell would no longer attack Members of Congress or libel those with whom he disagreed personally and politically. Said the announcer:

"The Jergen's Journal will continue to be a vehicle for your enjoyment and entertainment. It is not intended as a public forum for the discussion of political, partisan or other controversial or personal differences."

Yet, in spite of this solemn promise, Winchell continues to assail members of Congress. During the broadcast of the Jergen's Journal, the following week April 9, 1944, he deliberately attacked Senator Clyde M. Reed, of Kansas, in his usual insulting manner. And on the next broadcast, April 16, 1944, he made another vicious assault on an unnamed member of Congress.

It is evident that the commercial interests and network officials responsible for Winchell and his broadcasts are unable to cope with the situation. It now remains for the properly constituted committee of Congress—the Special Committee on un-American Activities — to proceed with its scheduled investigation of Mr. Winchell and the Smear Bund and to make the proper recommendations to Congress for appropriate legislation that will protect the American people and their elected representatives from the abuses of free speech without, at the same time, denying that Constitutional right and privilege in any of its legitimate phases. **"Comforting thawl!"**

The investigation of Walter Winchell by the Dies Committee resulted from a series of attacks made by the commentator on Chairman Dies, on his Committee and on other members of Congress. One accusation made by Winchell was to the effect that the files of the Dies Committee had been made available to "your news boy," Joseph P. Kamp.

This charge was originally made in the Communist Daily Worker. It was repeated in "NEW CURRENTS—A National Jewish Monthly," and re-published in the smear book "Sabotage." Then Walter Winchell broadcast it to "Mr. and Mrs. North and South America, and all our men overseas."

When Congressman Dies challenged the truth of the charge, the Communist Daily Worker came to Winchell's defense. It explained that Kamp was preparing a new book and then claimed the "exposure" of this fact "clarifies some of the recent attacks by Martin Dies on radio commentators."

But, instead of attempting to prove that Winchell was right, the Daily Worker made a tricky reverse play and charged that Kamp's files were made available to Martin Dies. Said the Communist rag: "Dies, however, did **not** admit that he had access to Kamp's files." (Emphasis by Daily Worker.)

In answering Winchell's slanders and sinister implications, Chairman Dies declared:

"His methods of propaganda are like those of the Nazi Goebbels. He condemns intolerance and then practices it himself."

Forced by the rising tide of public opinion, Winchell's radio sponsors belatedly offered Chairman Dies a 15-minute period on a national radio hook-up in which to refute Winchell's lies and slanders made over a period of years.

In his radio address, Chairman Dies accused Winchell of being a "tool of a Smear Bund" and he promised that his Committee would investigate the conspiracy thoroughly and tell the American people "who is supplying the brains and who is paying the bills." *"It's about time!"*

Declaring that while he was "interested in replying to the false statements many times repeated" on the Winchell program, Mr. Dies said he was "more concerned to fix the attention of the American people on one of the most sinister forces this Nation has ever faced — a highly organized and well financed enterprise to destroy by vilification the character of any public man who gets in the way of the objectives of the groups who manage and finance this offensive."

"Winchell is being used," Chairman Dies charged, "as a transmission belt to deliver into millions of ears damaging statements, half-truths, cunningly slanted implications de-

signed to impugn the loyalty and to destroy the characters of American public men who oppose the objectives of these subversive groups and to break down confidence in the Congress of the United States."

"I warn you," Dies declared, "that there is a dangerously intelligent and aggressive movement to undermine the authority and destroy the prestige of Congress in the interest of setting up an all-powerful executive. This program of vilification is part of that."

Mr. Dies then said that "these specialists in vilification would not dare charge reputable men with sedition. But they have found a means by which, through innuendo and indirection, they can select a victim and smear him with the odium of treason while skirting the edge of the libel laws."

After calling attention to Winchell's claim that he was told to "stay on the radio" by some "powerful person" whose name dare not be mentioned, Chairman Dies asked, "for what purpose? To sell beauty preparations as part of the war effort? Of course not. He was ordered to stay on the radio to do what he is doing — to carry on the work of the Smear Bund."

Characterizing Winchell as a "peddler of bedroom key-hole scandal," Mr. Dies accused him of "sandwiching in" political propaganda "between his collection of divorces, infidelities and other social derelictions."

"Winchell is seeking to undermine the confidence of the people in the legislative branch. What could be of greater disservice to the country in time of war?" Chairman Dies demanded. "Such attacks have the cheap characteristics of intolerance. Let him remember that those who expect tolerance in others should extend tolerance to others," he said.

"We are really fighting two wars," the Texas Congressman concluded. "One is a war of men, guns, tanks, planes and ships. The other is a war of ideologies, rumors, intolerance, character assassinations, subversive activities, and propaganda that seek to destroy representative government. We must win both of these wars to preserve our freedom."

Winchell made three principal points in attempting to counter the Dies' attack. In a published statement issued 24 hours before Dies spoke, he made the ludicrous charge that Martin Dies was helping "the Communist Party by attacking scores of well-known progressive Americans."

In his newspaper "col'm" immediately following the

broadcast, Winchell published a letter he had received from Dies some years ago commending him for cooperation extended in the early days of the Dies investigation . . . but written before Winchell attempted to blackmail Dies into making certain investigations by threatening to "expose" one of Dies' investigators as an anti-Semite. Then, in the same column after calling Dies "this person from Texas . . . one of the dime-a-dozen statesmen," he tried to deprecate the valuable work done by Dies in ferreting out subversives threatening to undermine the government by asking:

"Whom did he pin the plot on? Stalin? No. Trotsky? No, no . . . I will tell you whom he dragged up as the powerful menace to the American way of life. He named Shirley Temple. Shirley, not yet ten years old at the time, was the excuse Dies offered for the hundred-and-some thousands he wheedled out of Congress."

The fact that Winchell couldn't dig up anything better than this original Communist canard which was thoroughly debunked years ago was conclusive evidence that not only was he in a state of panic, but that after all these years, since the time he just managed to squeeze through the fifth grade in grammar school, he still doesn't know the answers.

King Features Syndicate, which distributes Winchell's stuff, thought this column so bad they decided not to release it to their customers. Even the N. Y. Mirror, Winchell's key paper, deleted a sizable portion of an attack on Mr. Dies. Cancellations and complaints flooded the offices of the syndicate, with some papers printing but one Winchell column a week. One metropolitan daily killed 19 Winchell columns in one month. Winchell continues to boast of 800 outlets, however, but only about 175 papers are still publishing his tripe.

Winchell's contract with King Features expires in November and the chances are it won't be renewed. The last time a cancellation threatened, both the Left Wing New York Post and Red PM made generous offers. Here's hoping!

Aside from his hammy attempt at rebuttal, Winchell's principal answer, not only to Chairman Dies, but likewise to other Congressional critics, was to scream that they were trying to interfere with his right of free speech.

Winchell believes so much in free speech and a free press that on April 23, 1944, he threatened the nation's editors and publishers with libel suits, cited legal precedent and warned them against reprinting items about him from the Congressional Record.

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Congressman Hoffman on the floor of the House, met Winchell's hokum with some astute observations. Said he:

"What an absurdity for Winchell, who over the years has made thousands of statements which tended to disgrace and humiliate good citizens, to, when the falsity of his statements, the harmful effect of his utterances is pointed out, complain about a denial of free speech.

"Perhaps no one has ever more extensively used and abused a free press, the freedom of speech, than has Walter Winchell.

"Those who would smirch Members of Congress, destroy the people's confidence in their chosen representatives, intimidate and silence all opponents of the New Deal and the Communists, are now the first to cry, whimper and whine when their hypocrisy is exposed; when their own words and actions are given the acid test of publicity, when their true purpose and character stand revealed.

"It is not my desire to limit free speech or a free press. My only demand has been that Winchell, in his public utterances, confine himself, when he makes statements purporting to be fact, to statements of fact; that he cease to falsely accuse not only Members of Congress, but all citizens of disloyalty; that he avoid false accusations, which tend to create race prejudice, disunity, discourage our men in the service and lower their morale."

Clown About Town . . .

Winchell "brushed off" Mr. Hoffman's logic with a "colyum" in which he likened his plight to the fight for freedom of the press made by some of the most distinguished figures in American journalism. As one of his friends once wrote, the "Gents' Room Journalist" has "a vanity which often expresses itself in overflowing tributes to himself."

Columnist Ed Sullivan paragraphed the "retort terrific" when he observed:

"In an excess of modesty, Winchell compares himself with great Thomas Paine, Horace Greeley, James Gordon Bennett, William Allen White, Jacob Riis, Lincoln Steffens, and Heywood Broun, and throws in Joseph Pulitzer for good measure . . . Always belittlin' himself! . . . Winchell, self-styled apostle of free speech, had N'Yorker editor Harold Ross barred from the Stork Club, because Ross exercised free speech and razzed him in print . . . Because Earl Carroll exercised the

right of free speech and told him to his face what he thought of him, Winchell taunted Carroll for years in print as 'a convict'."

By any means Winchell is determined to carve himself a niche of fame among the immortals of journalism alongside that of the distinguished Joseph Pulitzer. Somehow he learned about the Pulitzer Prizes and so he is now making plans to establish "Winchell Awards" to be given, no doubt, to honest and respected members of the newspaper craft whose names and endeavors will reflect to the greater glory of the Winchell handle. He's been talking over the details with Louie Sobol and a few other "friends" who still speak to him.

In answer to the decision of the Dies Committee to investigate him, Winchell immediately became an authority on Constitutional law. He advised his hearers and readers that, "as is provided in the Constitution," he was entitled to be confronted with witnesses and to cross-examine them. For once, even the violently pro-Winchell PM was forced to say in its editorial: "Unfortunately there is no such provision in the Constitution."

On this point, Congressman Hoffman also had something to say:

"The right to be confronted with witnesses, the right to cross-examine, is given to every individual when tried before any court. That right is not given to people who are under investigation.

"And who is Winchell and what has been his conduct that he should complain because he was not first given a hearing, confronted by the witnesses? When did Winchell ever, during his long course of vilification and scandalmongering, ever give any of his victims an opportunity to state their side of the case before he went on the air slandering or libeling them?

"Winchell should be the last to complain that he has not been given a fair trial. Winchell is yellow. And when he sees exposure coming he hides behind the Constitution."

Time after time in public, in his column and over the air, Winchell has sneered his defiance at those who protested the untruthfulness of items which damaged reputations and destroyed good names. It was with disdain and contempt that he invited them to sue him . . . and then brazenly added the cheap and sneering flippancy: "You will have to wait your turn . . . the line forms on the right."

Many suits have been filed against Winchell. Some have been settled while others have dragged along for years as mounting legal fees discouraged litigants who were only interested in vindication. And, besides, they soon found out that, even in the event of victory and heavy damages, it would cost the gossip monger nothing, since his contracts with both the Andrew Jergens Company and King Features provided that in the event Winchell is sued for libel they will assume all responsibility in defending suits and paying damages.

Now, Winchell of all people, has announced that he has filed a libel suit against Representative Hoffman because the Congressman wrote a letter to the editor of the Marcellus (Mich.) News in which he said that Winchell had been "stripped" of his uniform. A month has already gone by and Mr. Hoffman has not as yet been served with any process.

This suit is just a trick . . . a defense mechanism . . . Right now, the tide is turning and Winchell is looking around for ways and means to intimidate his victims who have suddenly become vocal.

He "tipped his hand" when, in his column of April 12, 1944, he wrote:

"Some gazettes read the libel action against Congressman Hoffman too fast. We are suing because he allegedly told a Michigan newspaper that we were 'stripped' of our naval uniform . . . **This is to warn anybody — don't print it or say it again. Outside of Congress or your straitjacket.**"

We insist on exercising our right of free speech to tell the truth. We refuse to be intimidated. We won't skirt the libel laws. We won't say it with loopholes!

The February 19, 1943, issue of PM, bright scarlet rag which is Winchell's co-worker in smearing Congress, under the headline "WINCHELL PUT OUT OF SERVICE," reported:

"The Navy **stripped** Winchell of his lieutenant-commander's uniform yesterday to appease the one-time isolationist bloc in Congress."

No phony libel suit or intimidating gossip "col'm" item can change that.

Winchell's libel suit against Mr. Hoffman is a year late and has the wrong defendant, if any.

If he had wanted to sue Congressman Hoffman, he could have filed suit at that time, a year ago, because on hearing the news, Hoffman told the press, and without Congressional immunity; "the Secretary's assurance that Winchell will not

be recalled to active duty will prove a boon to Naval morale. No longer will Navy men wince at the spectacle of a Broadway gossipier sporting a lieutenant-commander's stripes while he snoops about in search of sexy tid-bits."

Congress was told that while Winchell has been placed on inactive status, he was retained on Navy rolls only "by virtue of pressure from the White House." Winchell has said that he offered to resign, but not to anyone in the Navy, and that the mysterious someone . . . "a spokesman for the government" . . . sort of talked him out of it . . . "*Ho, Hum.*"

The use of the word "stripped" does not mean that Winchell was actually denuded . . . neither does it necessarily imply that Winchell was "drummed off the base." This explanation is not to suggest, however, that he should not have been kicked out of the Navy.

Winchell can argue all he wants to about the implications of the word "stripped" . . . he's used words to mean a lot of different things in his smearing throughout the years . . .

BUT, there is no way he can get around the fact that he is **out** of uniform. More than that, he knows his present status is permanent . . . with the "blessing" of his Commander-in-Chief. He was told this in the offices of the House Naval Affairs Committee and two hours of abject pleading failed to change the decision.

Nevertheless, "Walter-the-Winch," as his patron saint might dub him, appears in a ridiculous role . . . the victim of a strip-tease . . . "*Heheheh!*"

Winchell's complaint against Congressman Hoffman is a lulu. He avers that Hoffman's "letter to the editor" holds him up to "public scorn, hatred, ridicule, contempt, shame and disgrace; to induce an evil opinion of him in minds of right-thinking persons, to make him an object of reproach and to dishonor and disgrace him in the estimation of the public and his friends and acquaintances, to his injury and personal damage in his reputation."

"Looka whooz talkin!"

Why are Winchell's reactions pathological? Why does he rant and rave and become hysterical? Why is he fanatically determined to destroy the reputations of others? Why does he accuse the objects of his hatred of being homosexual?

A psychiatrist or a psycho-analyst would have no trouble in finding the answers to these questions. Even a layman of

some intelligence, without delving too far into diagnostic procedure or becoming involved in medical terminology, would conclude that:

1. Walter Winchell has a narcissus complex . . . an exaggerated ego . . . is an ego-maniac. (Like Hitler!)
2. He is abnormally sex-conscious to the point of vulgar exhibitionism . . . in print.
3. He is a confirmed neurotic . . . and definitely psychopathic . . . strictly whackpot.
4. He is a sadist.

There is more than one simple explanation of Winchell's psychoses. They could have evolved from the trials, tribulations and disappointments of his youth . . . They could have grown from his suspicion or knowledge of a family abnormality. Len De Caux, labor psychoanalyst and columnist for the CIO Union News Service, writes that "brainless bluster, pig-headedness, emotional tantrums and apparently aimless malice are often symptoms of some psychological maladjustment."

On the basis of any one of such unfortunate conditions, or, perhaps, because of all of them put together, Winchell developed a very definite inferiority complex early in life. The resulting frustrations caused him to exert himself to overcome imaginary barriers in the way of his ambition to succeed. By constantly finding fault and depreciating everybody else, he creates a feeling of superiority in himself.

Considering the peculiar way he acts at times, the crazy things he says and the goofy things he has done, there is a growing conviction on the part of many that Winchell should have his head examined . . . to use his own language, they think he's a fugitive from a nut factory. "*Fervensakes!*"

To others, he is "crazy like a fox" . . . smart, knows everything, and, according to Moe Annenberg, late racing sheet tycoon, "knows too many things about too many people."

There is something sly and sneaky, wily and tricky, cunning and stealthy about the way Winchell operates . . . His vulpine physiognomy . . . (a foxy puss to you, Walter) . . . plus the fact that he yelps and yaps are points in favor of this school of thought.

Those who contend that he is a mental case seem to have the edge, however, since Fred Allhoff, a recent biographer, sustains suspicion in this regard by recalling in *Liberty* magazine, that in his youth, Winchell was kicked in the head by a horse.

I'll Be back in a Flash with a FLASH . . .

On April 7, 1942, Walter Winchell colym'd an important observation: "Comforting thought: Our belittlers can only resort to name-calling, but the one name they can't call us is anti-American."

Well . . . that "comforting thought" is now and hereby cancelled out of Walter's consciousness. As a sponsor of the anti-American book UNDER COVER, as a stooge of the Smear Bund and as America's No. 1 promoter of dissension, discord and disunity in time of war, Walter Winchell IS anti-American! "Why isn't something done about that?"

And that, ladies and gentlemen, winds up our edition on the Jergens' Journal and, "with lotions of love" on the "remains" of your New York correspondent, Walter Winchell, who believes that when you "dish it out," but can't take it the only thing to do is to invoke the Constitution and yip and yowl about "free speech."

"Thassall, Bub!"

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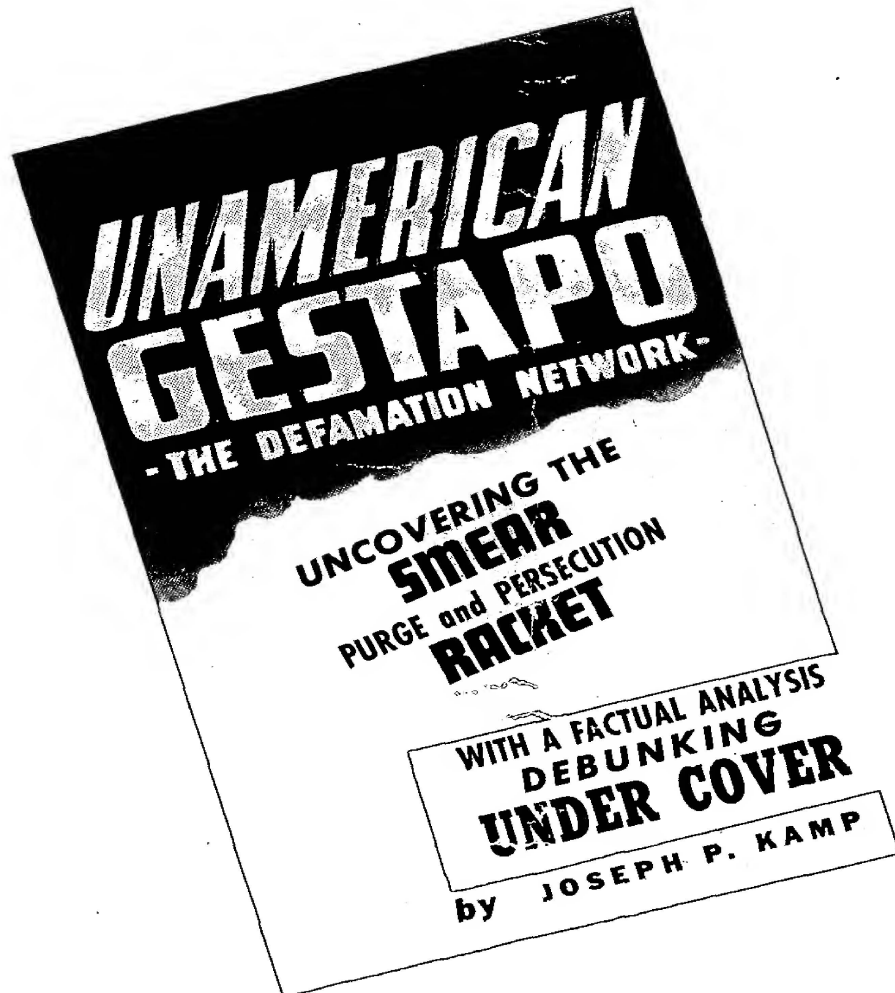
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